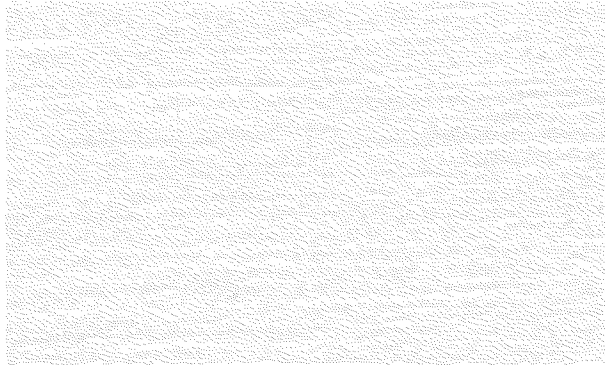


To: Madigan, Andrea[Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov]; Sisk, Richard[Sisk.Richard@epa.gov]; Land, Kelcey[Land.Kelcey@epa.gov]; Urdiales, Aaron[Urdiales.Aaron@epa.gov]; Rudy, Michael[Rudy.Mike@epa.gov]; Naftz, Douglas[Naftz.Douglas@epa.gov]; McCaffrey, Shawn[Mccaffrey.Shawn@epa.gov]
From: Bohan, Suzanne
Sent: Thur 11/19/2015 9:03:15 PM
Subject: FW: Denver Post Questions - Nelson Tunnel



FYI

From: Jenkins, Laura Flynn
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 10:58 AM
To: Jenkins, Joy
Cc: R8 GKM Leadership Team; Grantham, Nancy; Christensen, Stanley; Wharton, Steve
Subject: Denver Post Questions

Joy:

Below is the consolidated list of questions from Bruce Finley, Denver Post.

Cynthia and I met with Rich Mylott and came up with a new plan forward. We need to make sure all of Bruce's questions are answered, however, we also think providing Bruce with some context that more fully – and accurately – addresses the potential risks at this site would be helpful.

Cynthia will reach out to you and others for assistance in pulling together these introductory/contextual paragraphs. She'll make sure Martin and Nancy are in the loop on that component and I'll make sure they both approve the entire final

response to Bruce before it goes out. If you could provide the responses you're able to answer today to Cynthia and me, we'll make sure everything gets pulled together.

Bruce still hasn't provided us with his deadline but we're shooting to have something to him by COB today.

BTW: Should you receive a call directly from Bruce, please let me know ASAP and tell him you'll need to get back to him before answering any questions. He continues to push to interview you, however, Rich and I both advise against this and feel we need to have him submit his questions in writing.

Give me a call if you have any questions or need any further guidance.

Thanks,

Laura

1. What are EPA concerns about the stability at the site?

Answer: The Nelson Tunnel has been investigated extensively by DRMS, EPA, CDPHE and contractors, and we understand that the non-engineered blockages within the tunnel are currently stable. EPA and our State Partners will be conducting additional analysis utilizing internal and external experts, to identify and evaluate alternatives and approaches that would mitigate hazards caused by future changes in tunnel stability. Recommended mitigation measures, such as a flow-control bulkhead or other engineered systems, will be presented to the community for comment prior to implementation.

To allow for better monitoring of the tunnel system, the EPA and State site team is

procuring a replacement flowmeter to provide real-time data about potential changes in the tunnel discharge rate. If significant changes to flow are observed this will allow the site team to work with the Town and County and alert downstream communities about potential changes to the tunnel stability.

2. When mining company decided market not right for work at adjacent mine to include drainage and treatment of connected tunnel, what option did EPA turn to, if any, for dealing with backed-up Nelson Tunnel water and reducing the 400 gpm flow into willow creek?

Answer:

3. RE Creede – CDPHE referred to levels reaching the Rio Grande. What are the levels at that point? Who is raising the concerns?

Answer:

4. What is the latest best estimate on the number of gallons per minute flowing into the watershed - both from the Nelson Tunnel and from other mining-related sources above Creede?

Answer: The average flow from the Nelson Tunnel is 270 gallons per minute. The only other draining adit is the Solomon Tunnel, which drains at a rate of about 20 gallons per minute.

5. Seeking those levels - the Pb, Zinc, cadmium. And the trend. This is all Bruce states so, if you need additional information in order to response, please let me know and I'll reach out to him for clarification.

Answer:

6. Has the Regional EPA Administrator taken a look at the situation enough to have a view on the risk and what options EPA prefers as best course of action??

Answer:

7. *Are there additional points that Bruce isn't asking about but for which we'd like to share information?*

Answer:

Laura Jenkins

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